

REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction between five inventions: (I) Claim 1 directed to a method of adding a device including the steps of binding said device as a first device to be bound when the device is to be installed; binding said device as an additional device when said device is not the device to be installed, and binding said device as existing device to be bound when said device was previously installed in a network, Classified in Class 710, subclass 15; and (II) Claims 2-9 and 18 directed to method of installing and binding a device by placing said device in a first-device installation mode of operation, classified in Class 709, subclass 222; and (III) Claims 10-17, 19 and 20 directed to a method of installing a device by placing said device in an additional-device installation mode of operation, classified in Class 709, subclass 221; and (IV) Claims 21-26 directed to a method of installing a device by placing said device in existing-device mode of operation, classified in Class 709, subclass 250; and (V) Claims 27-31 directed to method for adding a CEBus compatible device by issuing a connect command to a context and hailing for a house code, classified in Class 710, subclass 8.

In paragraph 19 the Examiner asserts that "Invention I is directed to a method for binding a device as a first device to be bound when the device is to be installed; binding said device as an additional device when said device is not the device to be installed, and binding said device as existing device to be bound when said device was previously installed in a network classified in different classes/subclasses. The Examiners characterization of claim 1 is not accurate. Claim 1 is directed to a method of adding a device to an automation or multimedia network. What the Examiner asserts are different methods are actually the various steps of the claim-they are not separate and distinct methods. Thus, the Examiners assertion that it is necessary to search different classes/subclasses to examine a single claim, our claim 1, is traversed.

Continuing with paragraph 19, invention II , the Examiners assertion that claims 2-9 and 18 are directed to method of installing and binding a device by placing said device in a first-device installation mode of operation is not accurate and is traversed. The phrase "placing...." is the first step of method claim 2. Actually, the preamble of claim 2 recites a method of "installing and binding a device previously wired into an automation or multimedia network when

“said device is the first device to be installed in said network” followed by four specific steps, only the first of which is referenced by the Examiner.

Continuing with paragraph 19, Invention III; the Examiners assertion that claims 10-17, 19 and 20 “...are directed to a method of installing a device by placing said device in an additional-device installation mode of operation” is traversed. The Examiner, in arriving at his conclusion, makes reference only to the first step of claim 10. Actually, Claim 10, recites in the preamble, “A method of installing and binding a new device previously wired into an automation or multimedia network when said device is other than the first device installed in said network, said method comprising the steps of” followed by seven steps, only the first of which was referenced by the Examiner.

Still continuing with paragraph 19, Invention IV, the Examiners assertion that claims 21-26 are directed to a method of installing a device by placing said device in existing-device mode of operation is not accurate and is traversed. Here again the Examiner is relying only on the first step of seven steps of Claim 21. Actually, claim 21 is directed toward “A method of binding a first existing device into an automation or multimedia network” followed by seven specific steps.

Further with paragraph 19, Invention V, the Examiners assertion that claims 27-31 are directed to method for adding a CEBus compatible device by issuing a connect command to a context and hailing for a house code is traversed. Actually, claim 27 is directed toward “ A method of adding a CEBus compatible device to a CEBus network, said method comprising the steps of” followed by four steps of “(1) issuing a connect command to a context; (2) determining whether said context is in identify house mode and indicating hunting if it is not; (3) hailing for a house code and subsequently for an unused unit address; and (4) indicating the occurrence of an error in the event a unique address is not found within a predetermined time period.”

Clearly, all of the claims in the application are related. As stated in 808.02 of the MPEP, “Where, as disclosed in the application, the several inventions claimed are related, and such related inventions are not patentably distinct as claimed, restriction under 35 U.S.C. 121 is never proper (MPEP 806.05)”.

In view of the interdependence of the claimed inventions, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement be withdrawn as to the claims and each of the claims presently pending in this application be examined.

Respectfully submitted,

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